

QinetiQ acquires

QinetiQ has acquired US Foster-Miller Inc. Foster-Miller will maintain its name and operate as a subsidiary of QinetiQ Inc. The engineering, development and manufacturing company, based in Boston, MA, Albany, NY and Washington is a MIT graduate start-up, working in analysis and design.

Its multidisciplinary skilled staff of more than 350 work in the areas of transportation, robotics, advanced materials, custom machinery, power systems, biotech, and aerospace. It also manufactures military/industrial robots and troop armour.

Foster Miller expects that the new ownership will lead to a 15% increase in employment at the Waltham, MA campus.

EV expands in Japan and US

EV Group has opened a second customer-support centre in Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan with a significant increase in engineering staff to better serve its growing customer base.

Kyushu, has become a focal point for emerging technology research, and accounts for nearly one-third of Japan's semiconductor production.

EVG Japan, has had a regional sales and customer-support centre in Yokohama for the past five years.

EVG has also expanded its US operations responding to increased business and customer demand.

It will combine its HQ, technology centre and customer support

division in the ASU Research Park in Tempe, AZ. The new facility offers a Class 10 clean-room, and an on-site lab.

The Group has become a principal partner in the Flexible Display Centre research project between Arizona State University and the US Army and works closely with all other partners to develop commercial solutions for the flexible display industry.

EVG has also moved its East Coast operations from Cranston, RI, to the Albany Nano-Tech facility at the University at Albany-State University of New York. Using EVG equipment for nano research, provides a more centralised location for serving North East US customers.

India's SCL to merge?

Semiconductors Complex Ltd (SCL) has been reprimanded by a parliamentary standing committee on IT for its inability to arrest a fall in sales.

The company develops chip designs used not only in IT and telecoms products but also in advanced computing equipment in satellite and defence.

The committee recommended that the Planning Commission's suggestions should be implemented at the earliest opportunity, and explored the possibilities of a merger of SCL with Bharat Electronics Ltd or with the Society for Integrated Circuits Technology and Applied Research, or with the Gallium Arsenide Enabling Technology Centre.

Oxford Instruments acquires Finland's Metorex

Oxford Instruments plc is to acquire Metorex International OY (as part of its analytical business) for €4.9m cash, plus a consideration of up to a maximum of €6.1m, against the growth in 18 months sales. Metorex fiscal year to December '03 had sales of €9.8m and an operating loss of €1.9m. The value of the net assets acquired at completion is estimated at €600,000. Based near Helsinki, Finland, Metorex has subsidiaries in the

US and Germany. It is a leading supplier of instrumentation and key components for chemical analysis and rapid element identification, primarily using x-ray. Its strong market positions include proprietary detector technology developed with the European Space Agency; alloy sorting, and recycling which complement OI's business in these segments, and will enhance both scale of operations and market share.

Semicon Taiwan 2004



As in 2003, LEDs light up Taiwan Semicon.

"Capital spending by semiconductor companies in Taiwan is growing rapidly," said George C T Lin, president of SEMI Southeast Asia.

"Taiwan is expected to become the largest market in the world for semiconductor manufacturing technology next year, and semiconductor equipment and materials sales in the region

will exceed \$15bn by 2007."

This year's show is hosting over 600 companies in a net exhibit space almost 25% larger than last year. Set in the Taipei World Trade Centre, the show occupies two hall. International exhibitors are present in force and the special UK and France exhibits join the III-V and MEMS pavilions in Hall 3.

The chips are down

Jim Tully, VP Gartner Dataquest, said that four out of 10 chip-makers will disappear during the next decade. "Some will go out of business, a larger number will be acquired, and a still

larger number will become [intellectual property] vendors," said Tully. "The semiconductor industry is moving into a period of accelerating and turbulent change.